

a newsletter from James City County Parks and Recreation



P&R Times

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www.jamescitycountyva.gov/recreation

Powhatan Creek Trail Opens



The Commissioners stand on the 696-foot long timber bridge which passes over Powhatan Creek, l-r: Jay Lipscomb; Parks and Rec Director John Carnifax; Mike Hand; and Craig Metcalfe.

Members of the James City County Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission recently marked the opening of the new Powhatan Creek Trail with a ribbon cutting. The trailhead begins and parking is available behind Clara Byrd Baker Elementary School, 3131 Ironbound Road. Users can walk, ride or run on the paved 2-mile, 8-foot wide multiuse trail which connects to nearby neighborhoods as well as the Greensprings Interpretive Trail, the

historic site known as Church on the Main, Mainland Farm (considered to be the oldest continuously cultivated farm in America's first English settlement) and the Virginia Capital Trail. The trail was funded using \$380,000 in Federal and State grants and money approved by voters in a 2005 bond referendum. The trail is open daily sunrise to sunset. For more information on County parks, please call 757-259-5360 or visit us [online](http://www.jamescitycountyva.gov/recreation).

Outdoor Pools Open May 26!

Visit one of the County's outdoor pools on Saturday, May 26, noon-6 p.m. and celebrate the start of our summer season! The pools are located at Chickahominy Riverfront Park and Upper County Park. Activities include door prizes from 1-4 p.m. pool contests and giveaways (while supplies last)! Admission requires the purchase of a daily or season pass, which can be used at either facility. You can purchase a pass at the parks, the Community Centers, or Satellite Services in Toano. New pool hours noon-6 p.m.; weekends May 26 through June 10 and daily June 16 through September 3. Chickahominy Riverfront Park, 1350 John Tyler Highway, offers a large pool and small pool. Upper County Park, 180 Leisure Road in Toano features a large pool with two slides and a toddler pool. For fees and more information, visit [online](http://www.jamescitycountyva.gov/recreation) or call 757-259-5360.



Mid County Park, Regular Updates Online

Several renovation and construction projects are underway at Mid County Park. Look for regular progress reports online at jamescitycountyva.gov/recreation, call 757-259-5360 or write parks.rec@james-city.va.us.

If you purchased a fence picket at Kidsburg and you would like it returned to you next fall, call 757-592-0495 or complete the return form online at jamescitycountyva.gov/recreation/Kidsburg-picket-request.html.

New Registration Site

You can now register for all James City County Parks and Recreation programs at the Freedom Park! Reservations for the Freedom Park meeting room, picnic shelters for all County parks and department activity registrations can now be processed in the park's Interpretive Center located at 5537 Centerville Road. The Interpretive Center is open daily, Monday through Friday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. For more information, stop by the Center, visit us [online](http://www.jamescitycountyva.gov/recreation) or call 757-259-4022.

We're Always Open, Online!

jamescitycountyva.gov/recreation

Connect with James City County!

Find us [online](http://www.jamescitycountyva.gov/recreation) and on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#).

Go Ape, on the Swing in Freedom Park

Go Ape officially opened in James City County in April to an enthusiastic crowd! The private business operation offers a high ropes, treetop adventure course. Adventurists are equipped with harnesses, pulleys and carabineers and are given a 30 minute safety briefing and training before being released into the forest canopy to fly on zip lines, traverse rope ladders, walkways, bridges and tunnels. Instructors are always on hand, regularly patrolling the forests.



The eco-educational outdoor experience typically last 2-3 hours and caters to all skill levels. The course is ideal for family outings, corporate team building, and school, scout and church groups. Go Ape leases spaces in the park and pays all daily operation cost. The County benefits from offering another family-friendly outlet that welcomes more visitors to Freedom Park and James City County while generating additional revenue. Get a virtual tour of Go Ape on YouTube, youtube.com/jamescitycounty. To live life more adventurously, make your reservation at goape.com or call 1-888-520-7322.

Going to the Skate Park, Bring Your Helmet

To enhance the safety of all patrons, County Skate Park users are now required to wear helmets during their entire stay in the park. The Skate Park is adjacent to the James City/Williamsburg Community Center, 5301 Longhill Road. Spring hours are Monday-Saturday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. and Sunday, 1-6 p.m. Longer, summer hours begin June 16. Access to the park requires a pass, which are free for County and Williamsburg residents and are available at the Community Center. Non-residents can purchase a day pass or seasonal pass. For more information, please visit jamescitycountyva.gov/recreation/parks/skate-park.html.

Going for the Gold!

James City County Parks and Recreation has been selected as a finalist for the 2012 National Gold Medal Awards, in the population category of 50,000-100,000. The Gold Medal Award honors communities throughout the United States that demonstrate excellence in long-range planning, resource management, and agency recognition. Each agency is judged on its ability to address the needs of those it serves through the collective energies of citizens, staff and elected officials.

As finalist, the department moves into the last round of the application process with the production of a video that highlights community resources and accomplishments. Winners will be announced during the 2012 Congress and Exposition in October. The Gold Medal Awards are presented by the American Academy Park and Recreation in partnership with the National Recreation and Park Association and Musco Lighting LLC.



Mease Retires



Phil Mease, Recreation Services Administrator, retired March 30. Phil worked in the parks and

recreation arena for more than 30 years, serving 20 alone in James City County. Phil served as the Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation in Harrisonburg and the Athletic Division Manager for Chesterfield County before joining the County. Phil will be missed and admired for his great sense of humor, advocacy for the parks and recreation profession and genuine care for staff and customers.

Special Events

Family Fun Fest

May 19, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

Chickahominy Riverfront Park
\$3/car parking

Movies under the Stars, FREE!

Kung Fu Panda 2

May 25, 7:30 p.m.

Chickahominy Riverfront Park
Rio

June 8, 8:30 p.m.

Upper County Park

Karaoke in the Park, FREE!

May 26, 7-10 p.m.,

Chickahominy Riverfront Park
June 16, 7-10 p.m., Freedom Park

Tails on the Trail, \$20/passport

June 2, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.,
Freedom Park

For a complete list of May and June programs, events and activities, check out the Spring/Summer Brochure! It can be downloaded from jamescitycountyva.gov/recreation or picked up at the Community Centers, the Satellite Services in Toano, County government offices and at the County and City libraries!